

# The Chickasha Daily Express.

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WEEKLY EXPRESS  
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For Chickasha First; The Indian Territory Second; The World After.

DAILY EXPRESS  
Established January 1, 1900.

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## OIL UNDER THE SEA

New and Radical Departure in a  
Great Industry.

Development of Submarine Wells  
Was Brought About by Peculiar  
Circumstances—Strange  
Ocean Field.

Drilling wells in the sea is the latest  
and most remarkable, as well as the  
most picturesque, feature of the great  
crude oil industry. This new and rad-  
ical departure, a most difficult and ex-  
pensive undertaking, to say the least,  
has been successfully carried out at  
Summerland, Cal., the only place  
where it has ever been attempted, and  
there the precious brown fluid is now  
pumped from beneath the Pacific  
ocean at the rate of about 100 car-  
loads per month, from scores of holes,  
while many more wells are being  
bored, says the St. Louis Globe-Demo-  
crat.

The development of this remarkable  
field was brought about by peculiar  
circumstances, and commenced but a  
few years ago, when the oil industry  
had begun to boom in the east. The  
first wells were drilled on the bluff,  
where oil had been discovered 20 years  
previously in sinking for water and  
where there are still many good pro-  
ducers. But Summerland was a beau-  
tiful place, a quiet little colony of spir-  
itualists, and they opposed the advent  
of greasy and unsightly derricks on  
the hills. Besides, it was observed that  
wells were better the nearer they  
were sunk to the ocean, and conse-  
quently the operators began to crowd  
each other toward the water line.  
Finally, S. W. Knapp, of Santa Bar-  
bara, conceived the plan of getting  
ahead of all his competitors by build-  
ing a wharf-like structure along the  
beach and drilling out where the Pa-  
cific's breakers roll. The expense was  
heavy, but the well proved to be a  
"gusher." Others followed Knapp's  
example, going farther and farther  
until to-day there are dozens of  
wharves extending a thousand feet  
into the sea, connected by structures  
running parallel with the beach. And  
on these wharves, often so near each  
other as to be almost crowded, are the  
derricks—large ones for drilling and  
smaller ones for pumping—and all in  
use.

Operations are greatly facilitated  
by the fact that the oil strata, of  
which there are two, lie only from 125  
to 250 feet below the surface. Drilling  
is carried on in practically the same  
manner as on land, the only obstacle  
encountered, after the extensive pre-  
liminary work of building wharves  
and getting machinery out upon  
them is done, being the water. Until  
the hole is well begun that obstacle is  
great, but it is overcome by means of  
casing, and operations are carried on  
readily in 20 feet. The cost of drilling  
at the present time is about \$1 per  
foot, though some is done as low as 85  
cents. When the shallowness is con-  
sidered, it will be seen that on the  
whole the total cost of these wells will  
compare very favorably with those  
elsewhere and on land. But in the im-  
probable event of a violent storm,

such as sometimes travels along the  
Atlantic coast, all traces of this novel  
oil field—wharves, derricks and ma-  
chinery—would be swept away in a  
minute, and the loss would be enor-  
mous.

As to the extent and productiveness  
of this strange ocean oil field, an  
idea may be gleaned from the follow-  
ing figures: There are nearly 300  
wells, and the average output per day  
is said to be about 25 barrels, or a total  
of 7,500 barrels. The product is of  
high grade and sells for an average  
price of 90 cents a barrel, which  
means a total of over \$6,000 per day, or  
about \$180,000 a month. Much of the  
oil goes under long contracts to the  
immense Oxnard beet sugar factory,  
while thousands of barrels are  
shipped to San Francisco at short in-  
tervals.

The cost of pumping a well is only  
about 30 cents per day. To illustrate  
how closely the derricks stand, it may  
be stated that the Sea Cliff Oil com-  
pany, producing 3,000 barrels a month,  
has a wharf 800 feet long and 19 wells.  
The Trendwell company has the long-  
est wharf, extending 1,200 feet from  
the shore, with a pumping well at the  
extreme end and 18 others at inter-  
vals. And there are a dozen other com-  
panies with numerous wharves. Much  
oil is necessarily wasted under the pec-  
uliar conditions which prevail, and  
this, dripping upon the water, has the  
effect of making a considerable patch  
of old ocean as calm and smooth as a  
land-locked bay, adding much to the  
striking oddity of the scene. Often  
when new wells are opened the gas  
pressure is so strong that streams of  
oil spurt out upon the water until the  
surface is black, in strange contrast  
with the distant blue.

## CINCINNATI DISAPPOINTED.

Greatly Dissatisfied with the Work of  
the Census Enumerators—Claim  
They Are 40,000 Short.

Great dissatisfaction is felt over the  
census returns from Cincinnati, and  
from the way the citizens of that  
city have complained to the census of-  
fice it has placed the Cincinnati  
enumerators below par. Cincinnati  
claims it is at the least calculation  
40,000 short on the last count. In  
speaking of the matter officials at the  
census office were inclined to think  
that the count was as correct as that  
of other cities that have been enumer-  
ated in the present census, and that  
Cincinnati must realize it long ago  
passed its prime, which was before  
the decline of traffic on the Ohio and  
Mississippi rivers.

Cincinnati well deserved the name  
of "Queen City" in the days when it  
commanded the entire trade of  
those two tributaries as the metropoli-  
s of the state of Ohio. It is but  
the old story of river versus railways  
and no more than can be expected.  
The rivalry between Cleveland and  
Cincinnati is so great as to which  
shall be regarded as the metropolis  
of the state that if Cleveland's re-  
turns, which will be given out in a  
few days by the census office, should  
be larger than Cincinnati it will com-  
pel Cincinnati to abandon the title  
of "Queen City." Much bitterness ex-  
ists in Cincinnati and the census of-  
fice is getting the benefit of it.

## WEAZEL GAVE HIM TERROR.

Oakland Man as Frightened as  
Though the Tiny Animal Were  
a Grizzly Bear.

O. H. Richardson, who weighs 200  
pounds and is employed at the Pied-  
mont baths, Oakland, Cal., was held a  
prisoner in one of the large reservoirs  
at the baths the other day for two  
hours by a weasel weighing less than  
two pounds. The men who came to the  
rescue when they heard Richardson's  
cries for assistance say he could not  
have made more different kinds of noise  
or exhibited greater signs of terror if  
the animal guarding the exit of the  
reservoir had been a grizzly.

Richardson had been sent to the  
reservoir early in the morning to make  
some repairs before the weekly water  
supply was turned in. He had com-  
pleted his work and was on the first  
round of the ladder leading from the  
bottom of the reservoir to the manhole  
above when he happened to glance up-  
ward. There was the tiny weasel just  
at the top of the ladder. In terror,  
Richardson fled to the farthest corner  
of the reservoir, but, retreat as far as  
he could, the weasel kept eyeing him  
curiously and Richardson's fears kept  
rising. At last, made desperate, Rich-  
ardson resolved to call for assistance.

"Help! Help! Murder! Murder!"  
he cried again and again, but the only  
answer was the echo of his own voice.  
After two hours of waiting fellow  
workmen, attracted by Richardson's  
cries, climbed upon the tank. Their  
presence frightened the weasel and they  
managed to get Richardson out of the  
tank. He was ill all night and the  
next day from his great fright.

Richardson says, weasel or no weasel,  
the animal looked like it weighed a ton.

## SAYS HE MAY BEAT HIS WIFE.

To what extent, and for what of-  
fenses of omission and commission,  
may a man beat his wife? This is a  
question that the higher courts of  
Missouri must pass upon. Edward  
Spencer, a prominent farmer near  
Trenton, Mo., has just been convicted  
of whipping his wife, although he  
quoted Scripture in the courtroom to  
justify his actions.

Mrs. Spencer admitted the right of  
her lord and master to chastise her,  
but mildly protested that he had ex-  
ceeded the limit. For instance, he had  
once whipped her soundly because  
she could not see a squirrel he was  
trying to point out in a tree. Upon  
another occasion she was snarling  
thrashed because she would not wash  
a buggy that they might drive to  
church, where Spencer was to sing in  
the choir.

The neighbors made the complaint,  
that led to the trial, insisting that  
unless the law repressed Spencer they  
would, and broadly hinted that they  
would use very effectual measures.  
Spencer pleaded his own case, but was  
sentenced to pay a fine and to repose  
several weeks in jail. He will appeal  
the case.

Mrs. Sarah Rotchstein, an experi-  
enced nurse, wants employment.  
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